

MINUTES
DeKalb Park District
Public Meeting of the Golf Advisory Committee
February 23, 2022
Meeting Held in Person and Via ZOOM
Public Meeting 6:00 p.m.

I. Meeting Called to Order

Committee Chair Krmenech called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. After calling the meeting to order, Chair Krmenech stated that the meeting was being held at the River Heights Golf Clubhouse and via Zoom Video Conference. Participants could access the meeting through Zoom by entering Meeting ID number 694 768 7944 and using password Febgolf22, and to ensure that the “F” was capitalized.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: In person: Randy Bourdages, Dean Holliday, Vice-Chair Joel French, and Chair Gail Krmenech. Via ZOOM: Larry Schultz.

Absent: Vince McMahon, Tom Teresinski, and Tom Anderson.

Non-voting Members Present: Executive Director John Shea.

District Staff Present: Mike Siefken, Cindy Slinkard, and Austin Sands.

II. Action on the Agenda

Mr. Bourdages made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Holliday. Motion carried by roll call vote. Aye: Shultz, Bourdages, Holliday, French, Krmenech. Nay: None. Absent: McMahon, Teresinski, and Anderson. (5-0-3).

III. Approval of Minutes from 11/12/2020 Meeting

Mr. French made a motion to approve the minutes from the 11/12/2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Bourdages. Motion carried by a roll call vote. Aye: Bourdages, Shultz, Holliday, French, Krmenech. Nay: None. Absent: McMahon, Teresinski, and Anderson. (5-0-3).

IV. Public Comment

None.

V. Old Business

None.

VI. New Business

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Park District Update on Golf Operations
- c. Staff Structure
- d. Capital Improvements
 - i. Playability
 - ii. Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2023
 - iii. Drainage Improvements
 - iv. Irrigation
- e. Marketing Efforts
- f. Operations
- g. Golf Rounds Summer 2020 Compared to 2021
- h. Fiscal Year 2020 Through 2022 Budget
- i. Future of the Golf Committee, What's Next?
- j. Questions and Public Feedback

Park District staff presented a PowerPoint presentation on each of the New Business agenda items VI. a. through j. Mr. Bourdages acknowledged the staff's work on the course, noting that the improvement of the greens was unbelievable. Staff noted that for the slides depicting the bunker improvements and suggested updates, that the reference to left and right bunkers may be reversed (right vs. left) because the images were from satellite imagery. Mr. Bourdages asked whether the Hole #2 bunker would be a single bunker, to which Mr. Siefken indicated that it would. Mr. Bourdages indicated that removing the berm near Hole 5 and making it a grass berm as suggested by Mr. Siefken and using the material to fill in some of the bunkers was a good idea. Mr. Bourdages inquired whether both traps would be removed on Hole 7, to which Siefken indicated only one trap would be removed and the sand replaced when feasible. Despite the Committee's previous recommendation to remove the bunkers on Hole 10, Mr. Siefken indicated that he would like to leave something there. Director Shea asked for thoughts, including attendees, regarding Hole 10. Mr. Bourdages said that not many people end up in the trap there. Mr. DeOlivera shared that the bunker sometimes saves people, so having something there may be useful. Director Shea indicated the staff will have further discussions about the hole.

Mr. Bourdages stated he was extremely pleased with where we are now from where we started. He was impressed with the Director's energy and leadership, which is reflected in the staff as well as the customers. Irrigation is one of the biggest things that needs to be done. Mr. Siefken has done an amazing job. Sand is another component for course improvement. He plans to share tonight's information with others in his league.

Mr. DeOlivera echoed what Mr. Bourdages said. The improvements have been noticed by the golfers and the thoughtful efforts into those improvements. Golf is in a good spot.

Chair Krmeneč said that we recognize how much this group has done. She thanked the committee, the public, and all the hard work (by staff) that has gone into the course and we have moved forward with tremendous strides. She broached the future of the Advisory Committee, reminding everyone that the Committee's report was released in December 2019, the last meeting was quite some time ago, and perhaps we should consider dissolving the Committee, which the Board would have to do. A committee could be established in the future if one would be needed.

Mr. Bourdages said that back in 2019, the goal was to save the courses, which has been accomplished. He said this is such good group of people, he didn't want to lose the connection. He thought the committee could meet twice a year, perhaps in February and November, for updates and plans. It's important to have the community connection between the committee, commissioners, and the staff. If not twice, then maybe once per year.

Mr. Schultz said that based on when the committee started and what he heard tonight was pretty unbelievable. He was OK with disbanding the committee as long as we can keep the lines of communication open. If there are golf course issues coming up on Park Board meetings, then maybe they (the committee members) or at least the league presidents could be notified. We've proven what can be accomplished.

Mr. Shea offered for consideration adding an agenda item under Old Business on a regularly scheduled board meeting for a golf operations update. This occurs towards the beginning of the board meeting, so parties interested in golf would not have to sit through an entire board meeting, although they are most welcome. Mr. Bourdages brought up the timing of the Public Comment section of the meeting agenda. He wants to ensure that communication remains open between the public and the board regarding golf.

Adjourn Public Meeting

Mr. Bourdages made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. French. Motion carried by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.